

East Darfur, Sudan

Food Security Monitoring, November 2014



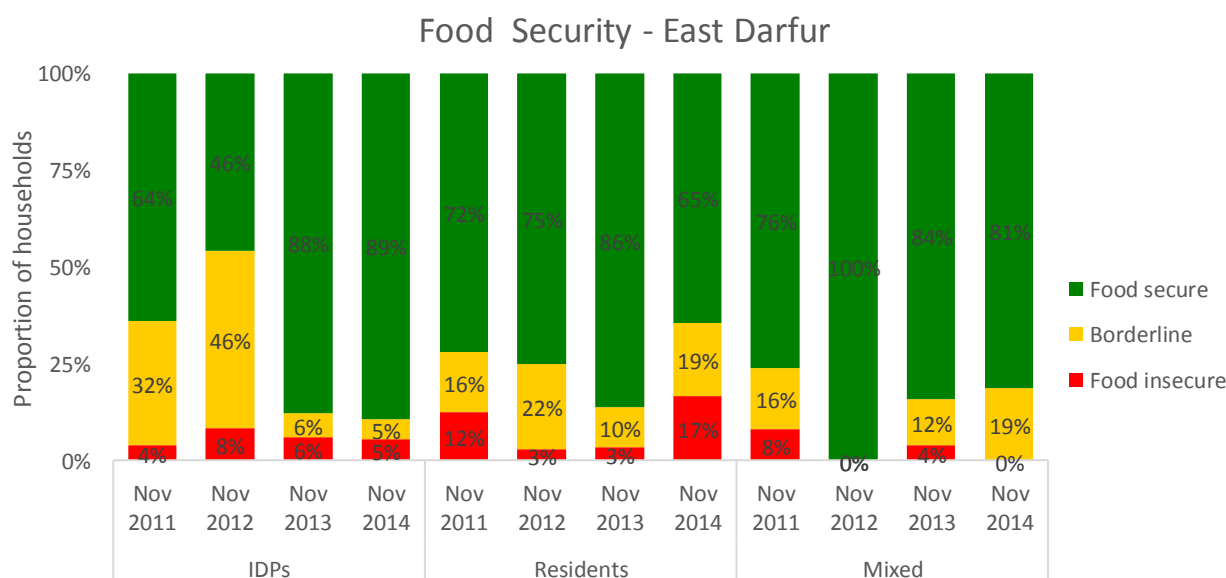
World Food Programme

Executive Summary

- Data collection for round 18 was carried out in November 2014, which typically marks the start of harvest season according to the seasonal calendar of East Darfur state. All the planned 15 sentinel sites were covered.
- The food security situation of households in IDP and mixed communities improved from November 2013 to November 2014, with a large majority being classified as food secure. Households in resident communities experienced a deterioration in food security over the same period. Residents were found to be worse off than IDPs and households in mixed communities.
- A large majority of households in IDP and mixed communities were found to have acceptable food consumption. However, dietary intake among resident communities had deteriorated compared to November 2013 and as many as 17 percent of households had poor food consumption (the worst classification of food intake).
- The price of Sorghum (*feterita*) in El Daein market was moderately above the price in November 2013 and well above the five year average. The cost of the local food basket (LFB) in November 2014 was 4.08 SDG/person/day, a decrease compared to November 2013 (4.82 SDG/person/day). Despite the price drop, purchasing power had declined to the point where more than half of households in IDP communities and mixed communities could no longer afford one local food basket.
- The main income sources for IDPs in camps were crop sales, sales of firewood and charcoal. The most important income sources for mixed communities were sale of crops, wage labor, salaried work and livestock rearing. Among resident communities, sales of crops and wage labour were the most important income sources, followed by livestock rearing and salaried work.
- In November 2014 the proportion of households within IDP communities who reported facing food shortage had increased to 50 percent, compared to 33 percent in November 2013. A smaller proportion of residents reported food shortage, at a similar level as last year.
- Twenty-nine percent of surveyed IDP children had very low or moderately low MUAC, compared to only 20 percent in 2013. The anthropometric data for children in mixed and resident communities had improved compared to last year and were comparatively less severe, at 16 and 2 percent, respectively.

Food Security

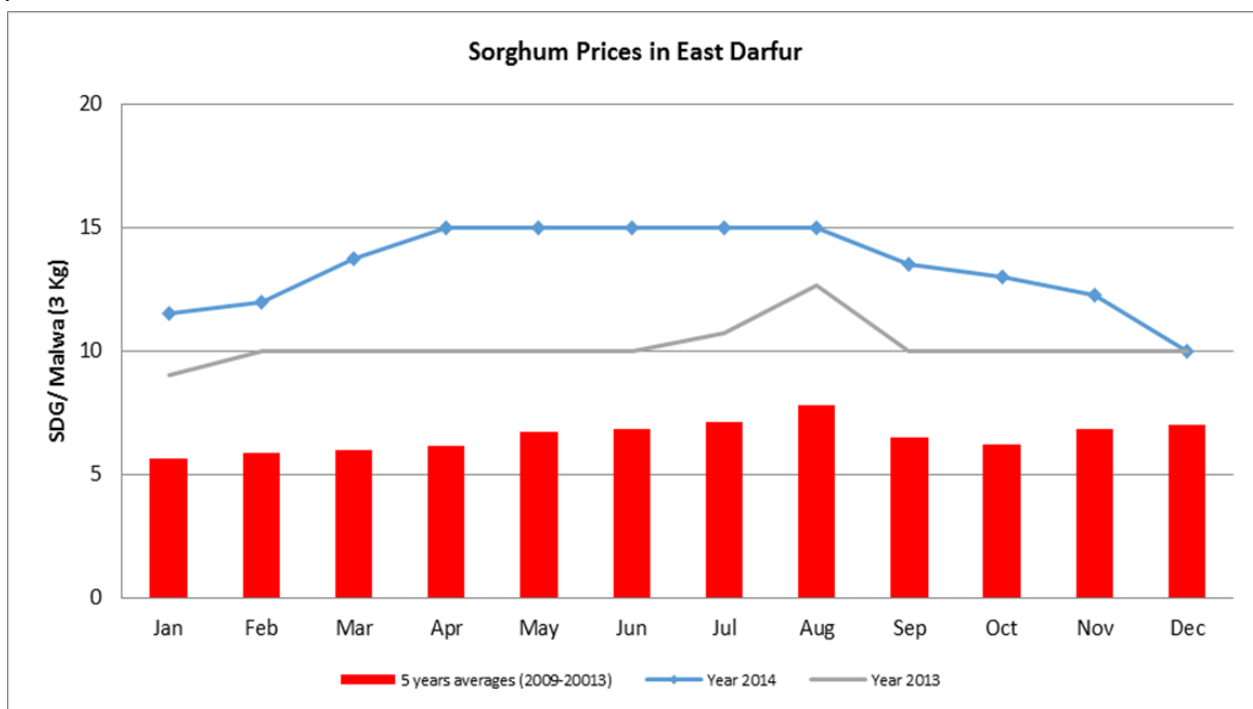
The food security situation of households in IDP communities and in mixed communities improved in November 2014 compared to November 2013 with the proportion of food secure household increasing to 94 and 88 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, households in resident communities experienced a deterioration in food security over the same period, with only 65 percent being food secure (down from 85 percent one year prior). Residents were found to be worse off compared to IDPs and households in mixed communities. The relative improvement among IDPs and mixed communities could be attributed to the good agricultural season and the reduction of food prices. The availability of labor opportunities in AlNeem camp had increased, with work relating to agricultural and market activities.



Market Situation

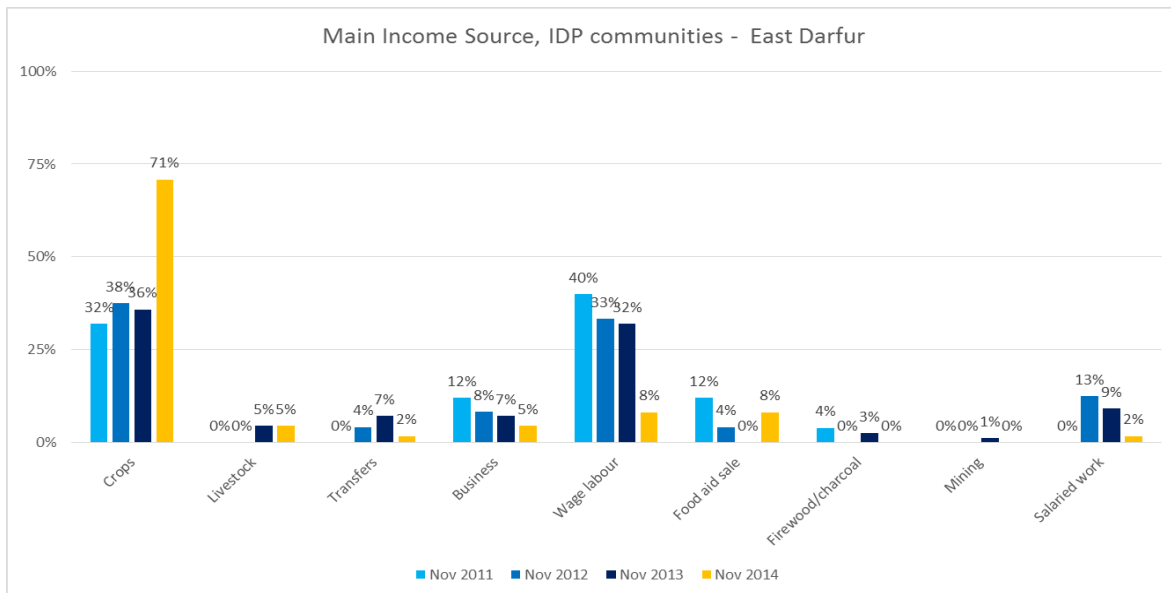
Sorghum prices in El Daein market continued to follow a declining trend in November 2014 after having reached record highs in September 2014. Despite the drop, sorghum was still priced above the November 2013 level and the five years average. The price level could be attributed to the high cost of production and high rate of general inflation. Some localities in East Darfur state saw tribal conflicts, resulting in population displacement which negatively affected the extent of land under cultivation. The demand for sorghum (*Feterita*) was relatively high in East Darfur compared to South Darfur due to presence of large livestock herds East Darfur which created more demand and helped drive up the price of sorghum.

A large part of East Darfur state falls under the western agro-pastoral groundnut and millet livelihood zone, where farmers conventionally concentrate on groundnut production as their main crop, rather than cereals and other food crops. Groundnut prices in November 2014 had increased, showing an upward trend, counter to the typical seasonal trend. The high demand by oil mills and traders who buy the groundnut directly at the farm gates was the main reason behind the rising groundnut price in Ed Daein market. The tribal conflict in the eastern parts of the state still affected El Daein market as main supply chain routes between Khartoum state and East Darfur state was disrupted.

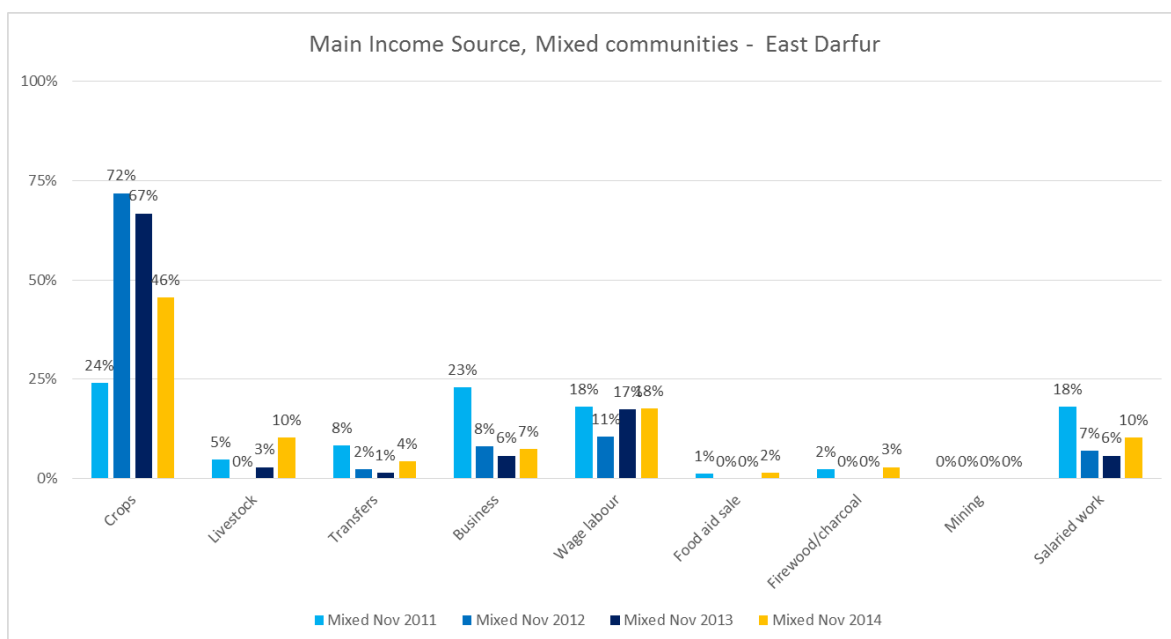


Income sources

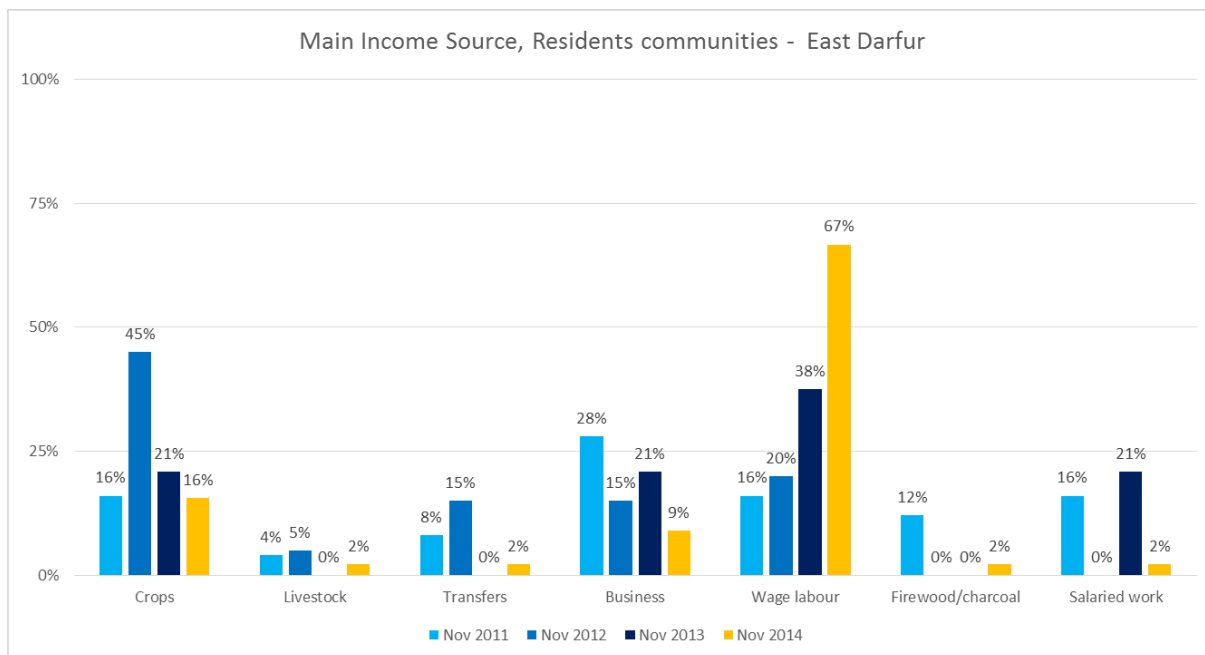
The main income sources for IDPs in November 2014 were crop sales, wage labour, food aid sales, business and livestock. Sale of crops grown by the household remained the predominant source of income for IDPs and the sharp increase in its prevalence compared to previous years reflects a relative improvement in access to land, often through share crop cultivation, and good agricultural season. IDPs represent a considerable percentage of the farming labor force in the state even though the percentage of households engaged in wage labour was reduced considerably compared to previous years, mainly due to insecurity that hampered many IDPs' access to job opportunities in remote areas.



The most important income sources for mixed communities were sale of crops, wage labor, salaried work and livestock rearing. The proportion of households who reported crop sales as their main income source shrank from 67 last year to 46 this year. The livelihood profile of mixed communities may indicate that they benefit from more diversified income opportunities compared to the IDP communities and resident communities.

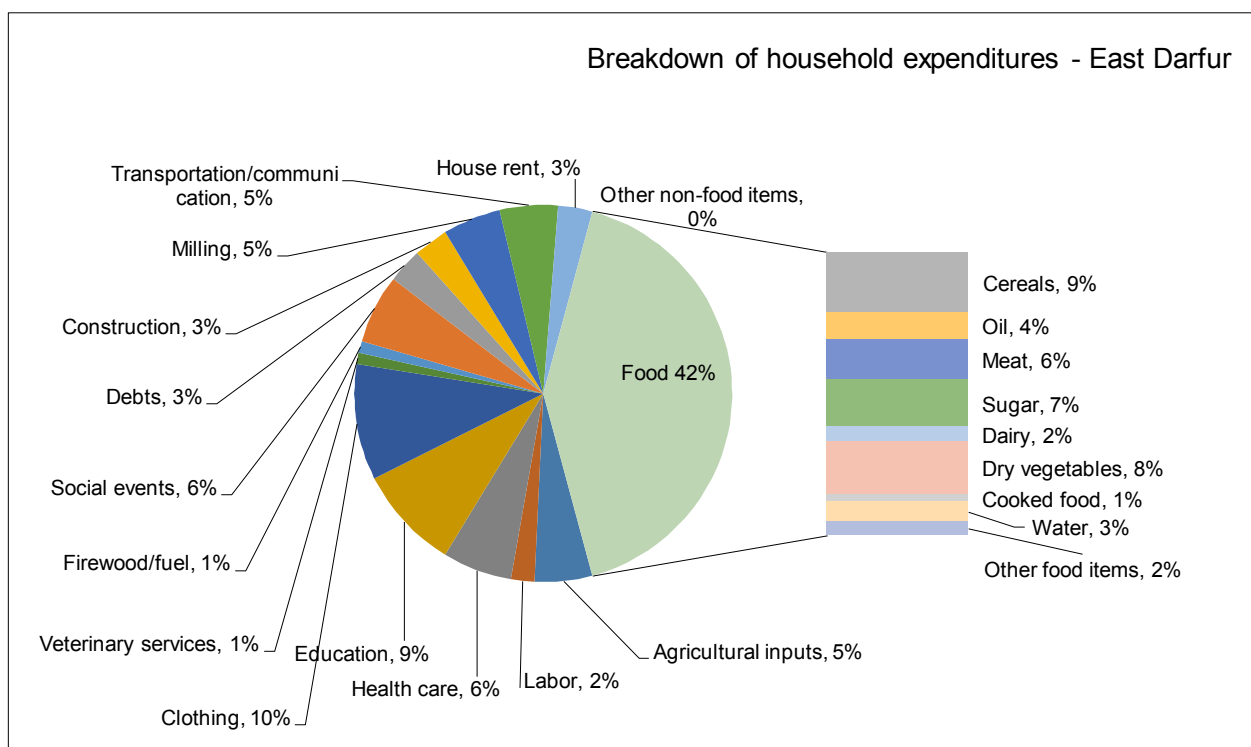


The main income sources for resident communities in November 2014 was wage labor (67 percent of households), accounting for a significantly larger proportion of households compared to previous years as a result of greater availability of agricultural job opportunities during harvesting in the good agricultural season. Other income sources included sale of crops (16 percent of households) and small businesses (9 percent).

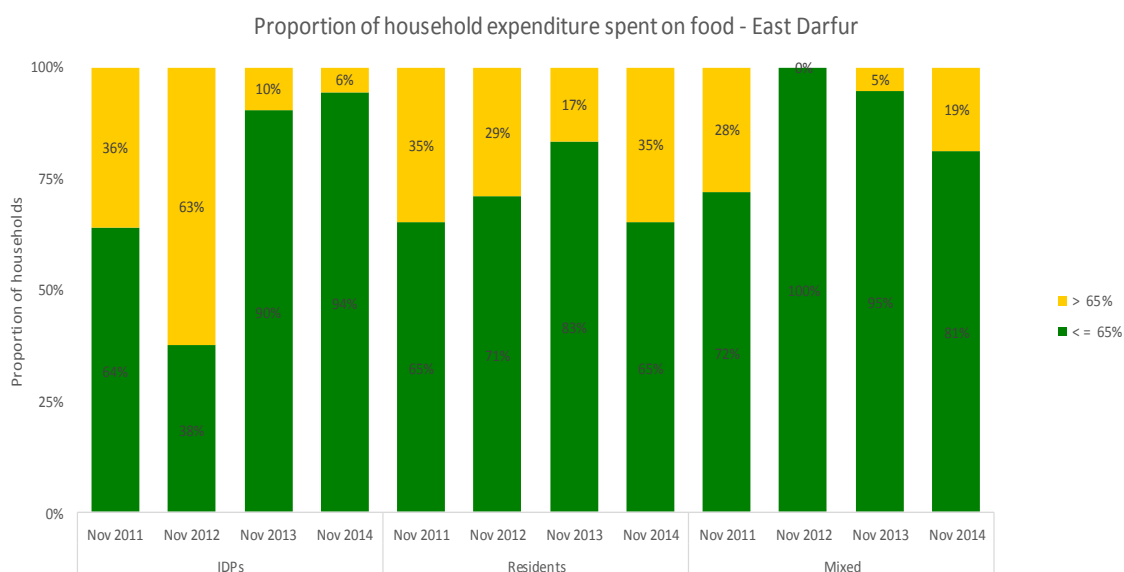


Expenditures

Among the overall sample, an average of 42 percent of monthly expenditure was spent on food items. The percentage constituted a slight reduction compared to November 2013 (when it was 44 percent). Household mainly spent on cereals, dry vegetables, sugar, meat and cooking oil. Main non-food expenditures included clothing, education, health care, social events, agricultural inputs, transportation, communication and milling.



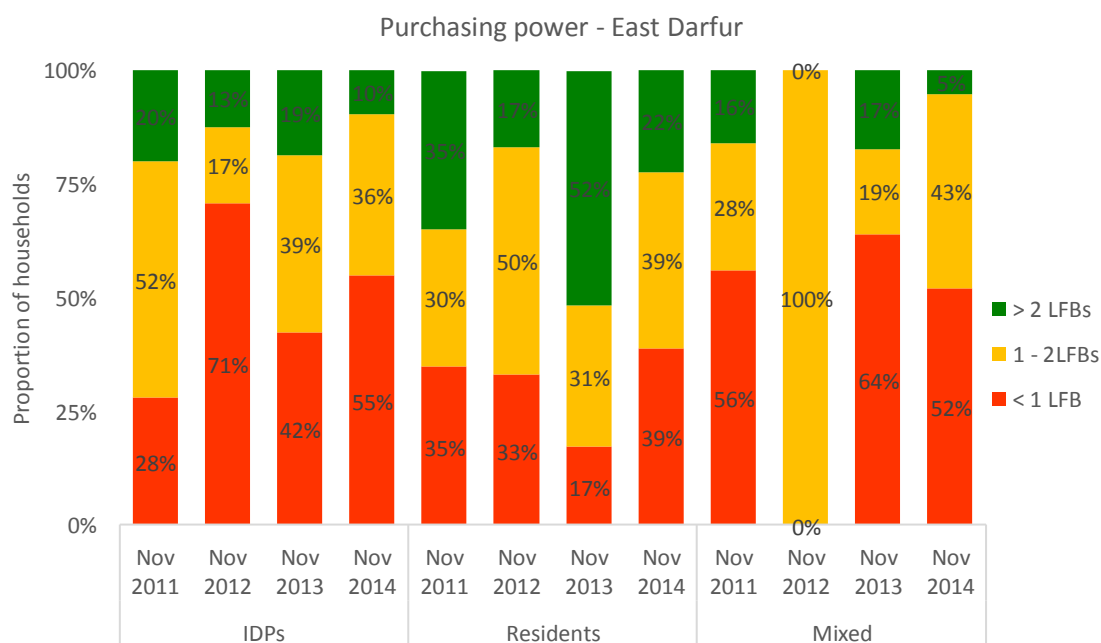
The proportion of IDP households who spent more than 65 percent of their income on food items (a threshold above which households are more likely to experience economic stress) increased in November 2014 compared to November 2013 for households in resident and mixed communities. The corresponding proportion of households among IDP communities remained largely unchanged over the same period. That IDPs were shielded from the deterioration seen among residents and mixed communities may be related to the relatively heavy reliance on crop production for income generation among IDPs. Many IDPs also received food assistance, further limiting their need to rely on the market for food items.



Purchasing Power

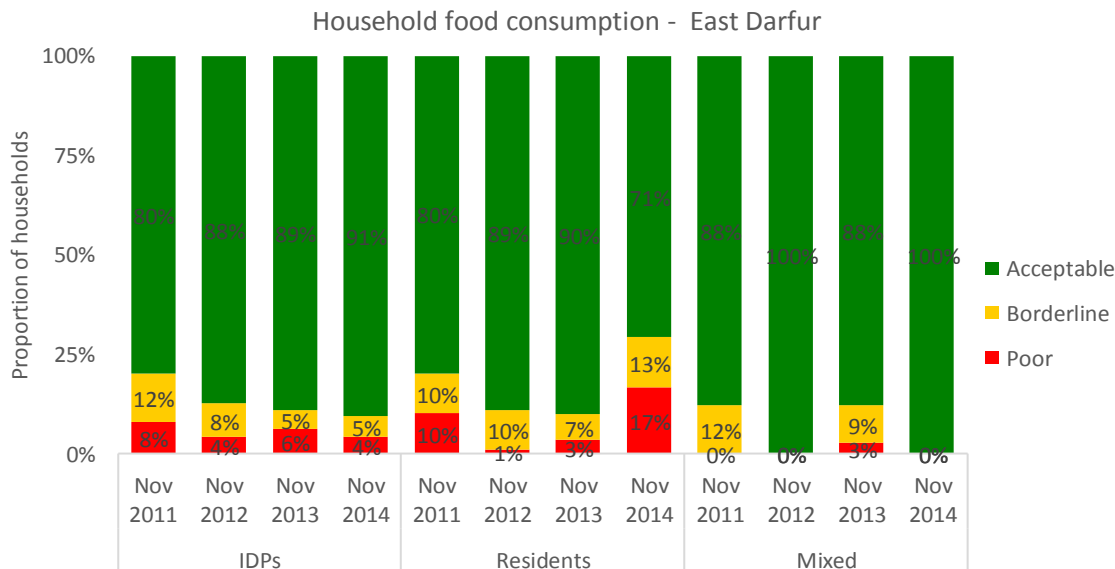
The cost of the local food basket (LFB) was 4.07 SDG/person/day in November 2014, which is less compared to November 2013 (when it was 4.82 SDG/person/day). The price decrease was a result of increased availability of fresh milk, at a lower price compared to dry milk. However, the prices of some major food items such as dry vegetables, oil, sugar and sorghum increased following a national food price hike that hit the region in 2012.

The proportion of surveyed IDP and resident households that could not afford the cost of one local food basket were larger compared to the same time last year. IDPs and mixed communities were in general worse off compared to residents, with 55 and 52 percent, respectively, being unable to afford the LFB.



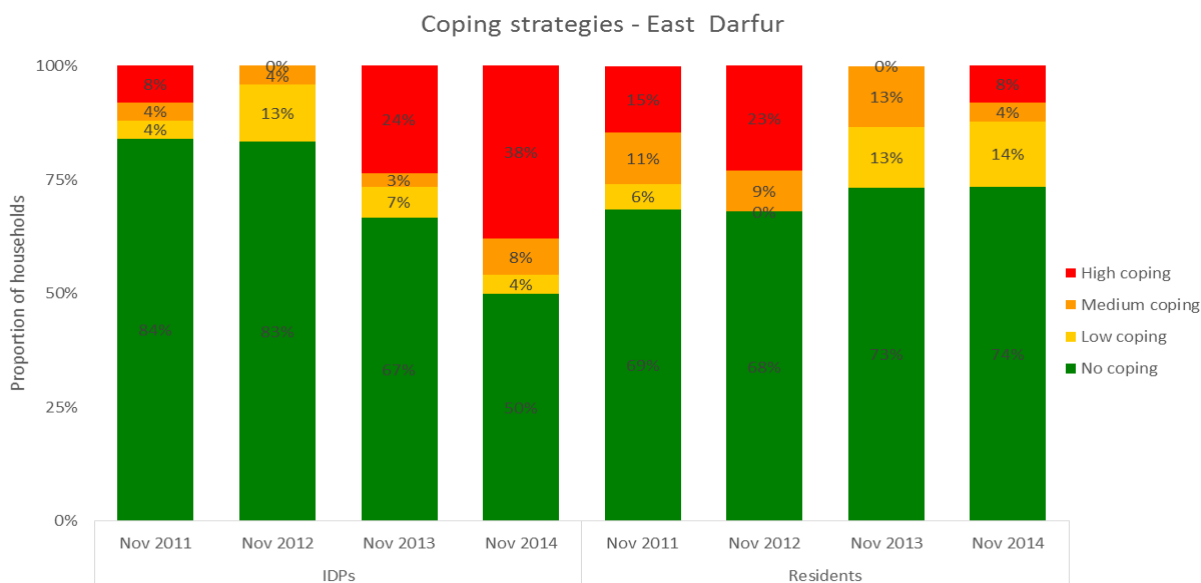
Food Consumption

The food consumption was found to be acceptable for a large majority of the sampled households and there was a general improvement in dietary intake among IDPs and mixed communities in November 2014 compared to November 2013. However, food consumption among residents deteriorated to the point that an unusually large proportion exhibited poor food consumption. Market purchase and household production of crops and livestock were the main sources of cereals and other food items.



Perceived Food Access

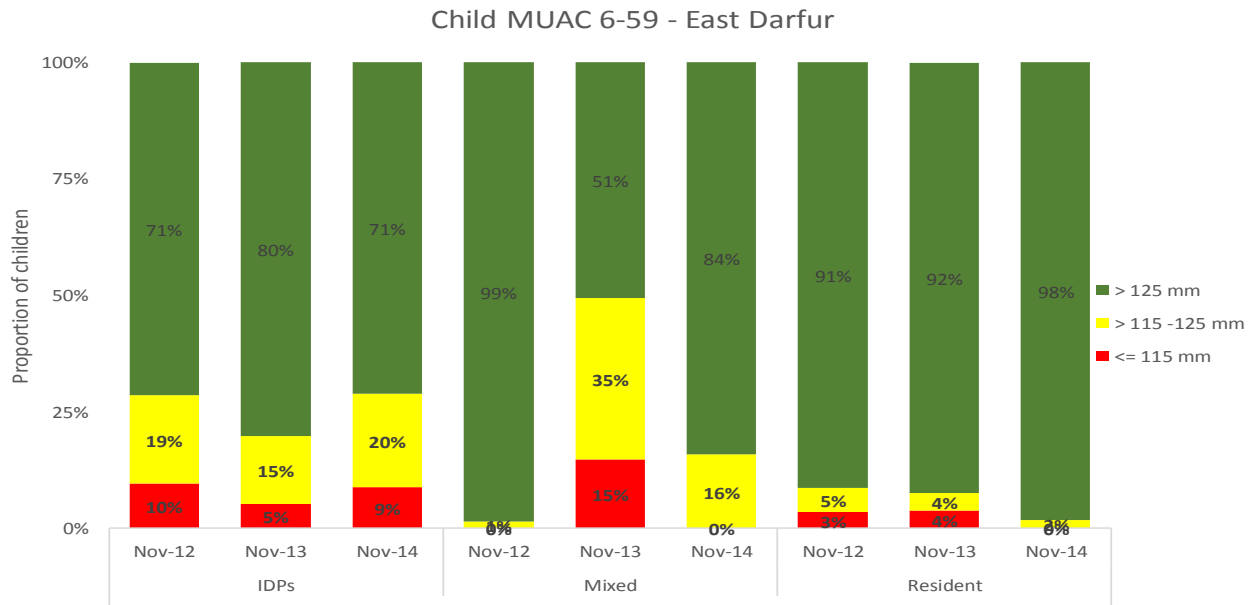
Households were asked if there were times in the one week prior to data collection when they did not have enough food (or money to buy food). If they experienced such situations, they asked what strategies they employed to cope with the shortage. In November 2014, households in IDP communities reported major problems with food access, with 38 percent of them adopting severe coping strategies, compared to 24 percent in November 2013. The proportion of resident households that faced food shortage in November 2014 was similar to November 2013 levels, although the coping strategies employed had become more severe.



Child Nutrition

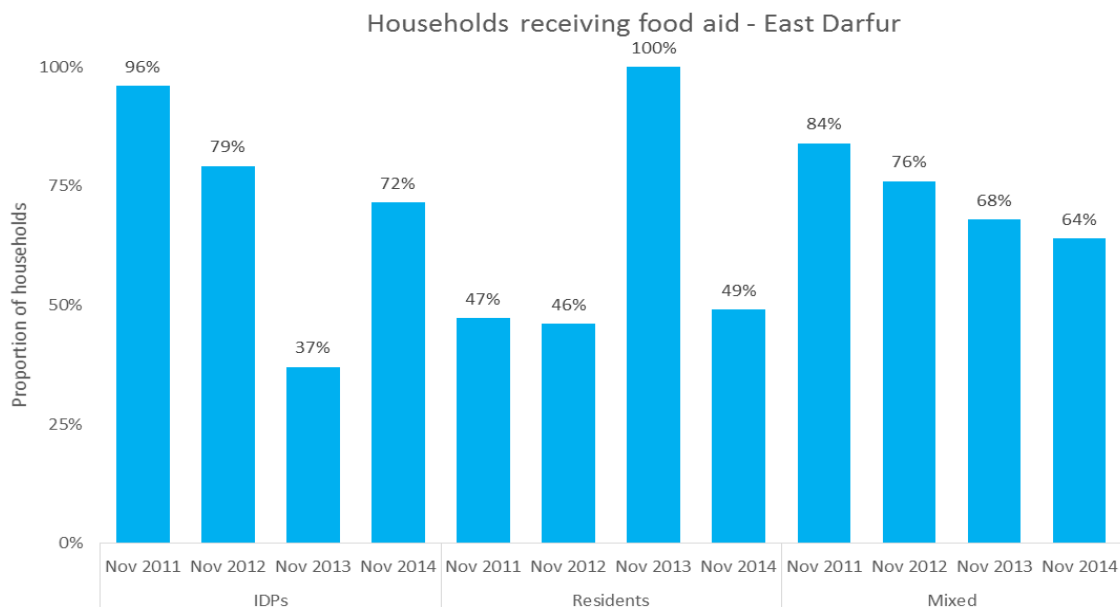
The mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) of all children aged 6-59 months in surveyed households was measured and classified as very low (below 115 mm, a proxy indicator for severe acute malnutrition), moderately low (between 115 and 125mm, a proxy for moderate acute malnutrition), and normal.

MUAC measurements were worse for children in IDP communities in November 2014 compared to November 2013. The proportion of children with very or moderately low MUAC increased from 20 to 29 percent among IDPs during that period. The trend was the reverse among mixed and resident communities, where the corresponding proportion shrank from 40 to 16 percent, and from 8 to 2 percent, respectively.



Food Assistance

In IDP camps, the proportion of households receiving food assistance in East Darfur under regular GFD was above seventy percent. A general trend of the last few years was seen where a decreasing proportion of households among IDPs and mixed communities receive food assistance. This was largely due to the presence of significant numbers of new arrivals who were not registered or verified in the camps and increased targeting of food assistance to mixed communities during the lean season.



Who were the Food Insecure?

In an unusual departure from the norm, male headed households were found to be less likely to be food secure compared to female headed households. The education level of the household head correlated positively with food security. Households relying on small business and salaried work for their income tended to have higher purchasing power than those who relied on crop sales and wage labor. The higher purchasing power also translated into better food security status.

Sample Characteristics

All 15 primary sentinel sites were visited and 315 households were interviewed. Forty percent of households were headed by women and the average household size was 7 persons. Eight percent of surveyed households were IDPs living in camps, 14 percent were IDPs outside camps, 36 percent were residents and 31 percent were returnees.